

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 840

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HOMELAND SECURITY: Requires each parish to create an advisory committee on emergency management

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 29:727(I), relative to parish homeland security and emergency preparedness
3 agencies; to provide for the creation of parish emergency management advisory
4 committees; to provide for the membership of the committee; to provide for
5 reporting procedures; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 29:727(I) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §727. Powers of the parish president; penalties for violations

9 * * *

10 I.(1) Each parish or police jury president, through the parish director of
11 homeland security and emergency preparedness appointed pursuant to R.S. 29:728,
12 shall form a parish emergency management advisory committee, to offer advice and
13 counsel to the parish or police jury president on homeland security and emergency
14 management issues set forth in the report prepared in accordance with Subparagraph
15 (4) of this Paragraph. The parish or police jury president may consider the advice
16 and counsel from the committee on such matters as planning, development,
17 prioritization, coordination and implementation of homeland security and emergency
18 management issues to include but not be limited to homeland security and
19 emergency management mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, grant
20 requests, and the expenditure of grant funds.

1 (2) The parish or police jury president, shall serve as the chairperson of the
2 committee or shall designate the parish director of homeland security and emergency
3 preparedness to serve as the chairperson. If the parish or police jury president serves
4 as the chairperson, the parish director of homeland security and emergency
5 preparedness shall serve as vice-chairperson of the committee.

6 (3)(a) At a minimum, the committee shall consist of the following for each
7 parish:

8 (i) A fire chief from the parish as a representative of all the fire chiefs in the
9 parish.

10 (ii) A chief executive officer from one of the municipalities of the parish, as
11 a representative of all chief executive officers of the parish.

12 (iii) A police chief from the parish as a representative of all the police chiefs
13 of the parish.

14 (iv) The sheriff of the parish or his designee.

15 (v) A senior executive from the emergency medical services community
16 within a parish.

17 (b) The representatives of the fire chiefs, municipal chief executive officers,
18 police chiefs, and emergency medical services shall be appointed to the committee
19 by those persons holding the same position within the parish.

20 (4) The committee shall meet no less than twice per year and shall submit
21 a report to the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and
22 Emergency Preparedness on or before April first of each year, commencing on April
23 1, 2010. The annual report shall address those issues identified by the director in
24 consultation with the regional parish office of emergency preparedness parish
25 directors' subcommittee pursuant to R.S. 29:725.6(B)(6)(c) by January first of each
26 year.

27 (5) The requirement of the parish or police jury president to form a parish
28 emergency advisory committee may be satisfied through any existing committee
29 formed within the parish for the purpose of addressing the issues of homeland

- 1 security and emergency preparedness provided that such existing committee meets
2 the membership requirement set forth in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph.
3 (6) Nothing herein shall restrict or impair the rights and responsibilities of
4 a parish president to respond to an emergency.
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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

White

HB No. 840

Abstract: Creates a parish emergency management advisory committee for each parish. Provides for the membership of the committee and reporting procedures.

Proposed law provides that each parish or police jury president, through the appointed parish director of homeland security and emergency preparedness shall form a parish emergency management advisory committee.

Proposed law provides that the purpose of the committee shall be to offer advice and counsel to the parish or police jury president on homeland security and emergency management issues. Further provides that the parish or police jury president may consider the advice and counsel from the committee on such matters as planning, development, prioritization, coordination and implementation of homeland security and emergency management issues to include but not limited to homeland security and emergency management mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, grant requests, and the expenditure of grant funds.

Proposed law provides that the parish or police jury president shall serve as the chairperson of the committee or shall designate the parish director of homeland security and emergency preparedness to serve as the chairperson. If the parish or police jury president serves as the chairperson, the parish director shall serve as vice-chairperson of the committee.

Proposed law provides that at a minimum, membership of the committee consist of:

- (1) A fire chief from the parish as a representative of all the fire chiefs in a parish.
- (2) A chief executive officer from one of the municipalities of the parish, as a representative of all chief executive officers of the parish.
- (3) A police chief from the parish as a representative of all the police chiefs of the parish.
- (4) The sheriff of the parish or his designee.
- (5) A senior executive from the emergency medical services community within a parish.

Proposed law provides that the representatives of the fire chiefs, municipal chief executive officers, police chiefs, and emergency medical services shall be appointed to the committee by those persons holding the same position within the parish.

Proposed law provides that the committee shall meet no less often than twice per year and shall submit a report to the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security on or before April 1st of each year, commencing April 1, 2010. Specifies that the annual report shall address those issues identified by the director in consultation with the regional parish office of emergency preparedness parish directors' subcommittee and shall be submitted by January 1 of each year.

Proposed law provides that requirement of forming a parish emergency advisory committee may be satisfied by existing homeland security and emergency preparedness, provided that the membership consists of those persons designated in proposed law, above.

Proposed law provides that its provisions shall not restrict or impair the rights and responsibilities of a parish president to respond to an emergency.

(Adds R.S. 29:727(I))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill.

1. Specifies the issues to be addressed by the parish emergency management advisory committee.
2. Deletes requirement that the advisory committee submit its report to the Jt. Committee on Homeland Security.
3. Specifies the issues to be addressed in the annual report and provides for submission of the report on January 1 of each year.
4. Specifies membership of existing parish committees that may be used in lieu of forming a parish emergency advisory committee.
5. States that proposed law shall not restrict or impair the rights and responsibilities of a parish president to respond to an emergency.